

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.181
Historic Name:	Fox, Samuel House
Common Name:	
Address:	505 Old Bedford Rd
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	East Quarter
Local No:	J7-1040
Year Constructed:	c 1702
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	First Period; Georgian
Use(s):	Agricultural; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Agriculture; Architecture; Exploration Settlement
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard; Wood Shingle Foundation: Granite; Stone, Cut



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

This file was accessed on: Friday, October 30, 2020 at 12:44 PM

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

J7-1040

CONCORD

181

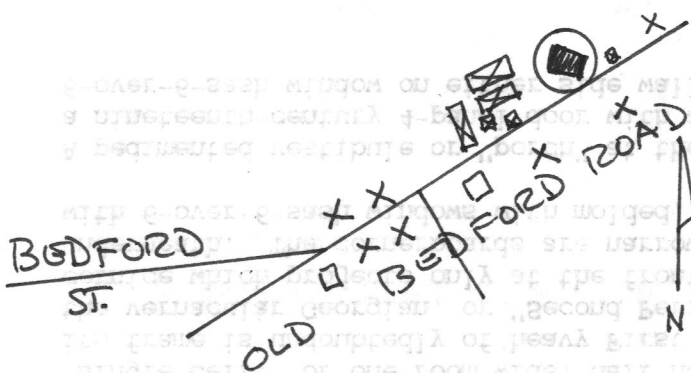
Town CONCORDPlace (neighborhood or village) old "East Quarter"Address 505 Old Bedford RoadHistoric Name Samuel Fox HousePresent dwellingOriginal dwellingDate of Construction ca. 1702Architect WheelerForm First PeriodArchitect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation dressed graniteWall/Trim wood clapboard & shingleRoof asphalt shingleOutbuildings/Secondary Structures 1930'sgarage/shed/greenhouse complex,
roadside standMajor Alterations (with dates) noneCondition goodMoved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/AAcreage 3.4 acresSetting Faces diagonally to street in
area of primarily 20th-century houses.Ca. 25 acres of farmland to north
and east.

Sketch Map

Draw a map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Attach a separate sheet if space is not sufficient here. Indicate North.

Recorded by A. Forbes
research by Bunny BlackOrganization for Concord Hist. CommissionDate (month/day/year) June, 1991

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☒ see continuation sheet

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

Like another Fox family house across the street at #472, this house appears today as a 2 1/2-story, central-chimney structure typical of the eighteenth century. It is in a much better state of preservation, however, even retaining an early lean-to across the rear, giving it a "saltbox" profile. Like #472, the main part of the house is one-room deep, but its extremely long dimensions suggest that it may have grown from a "single-cell," or one-room wide, half-house at some time early in its history. Although its frame is undoubtedly of heavy First Period construction, its main aspect today is in the vernacular Georgian, or "Second Period" style of the mid-1700's. It has a molded cornice which projects only at the front of the house, trimmed with a prominent molding underneath. The cornerboards are narrow; the five-bay facade is symmetrically arranged, with 6-over-6-sash windows with molded, projecting frames.

A pedimented vestibule or "porch" at the main entry appears to be of early date. It has a nineteenth-century 4-panel door with applied moldings and a molded surround, and a 6-over-6-sash window on either side wall. (Cont.)

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☒ see continuation sheet

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

Late in the seventeenth century, a large section of Concord's "East Quarter" was owned by farmer Eliphalet Fox (d. 1711). In 1702 he deeded his farm on both sides of the "Billerica Road" to his son Samuel Fox (1670-1734), along with the house at #505. (After his second wife died Eliphalet married his third, Mary Colburn, in that year. The coincidence of dates may indicate that he built this house in that year, possibly as a home for both his family and his son's. It is also possible that Eliphalet and his new wife lived elsewhere [possibly #455 Cambridge Turnpike--see Form # ,] and deeded the property to Samuel for that reason. (Adding to the confusion is the fact that in his will of 1711, Eliphalet refers to the house across the road at #472, probably built somewhat later than this one, as his own house.)

Samuel died in 1734, and the section of the farm along this section of Old Bedford Road was divided between his two sons, Thomas and Enos, with Thomas inheriting land and buildings on the east side of the road and Enos Fox (b. 1708) the land and homestead on the west side. (Enos later also acquired Thomas's land at #550 Old Bedford Road.) (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☒ see continuation sheet

Interview with former owner's daughter, 3/91.
 Maps and atlases: 1830, 1852, 1856, ca. 1871; 1875, 1889, 1893, 1906.
 Shattuck, Lemuel. History of the Town of Concord. 1835.
 Town Directories.
 Wheeler, Ruth. Concord: Climate for Freedom. 1967. (Cont.)

☒ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

CONCORDSamuel Fox House

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ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

Like many older farmhouses, the building is clapboarded on the facade, and shingled on the gable ends. Interior changes have been very few over the years. The first story floors were lowered by six inches in ca. 1930, increasing the ceiling height from 6 to 6 1/2 feet. A former carriage house once attached to the rear of the house was destroyed in the 1938 hurricane.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

Deed research shows that some time during the middle of the century at least some of the farm on the west side of the road was purchased by **Joseph Wheeler** (son of Dea. John Wheeler), who left it to his wife and children. His share, which apparently included the house, fell to his son **Zachariah Wheeler**. Zachariah died in 1790, and his heirs sold it to **Josiah Meriam** (Merriam.) This was probably Josiah, Jr., son of Josiah and Lydia Wheeler Meriam.

In contrast to many of Concord's early farms which remained in one family for several generations, this one seems to have changed hands repeatedly through the nineteenth century, being owned at least once by someone who did not live on the premises. Over the years the farm was gradually reduced in size as parcels were sold off, some to immigrants who established farms on the "new" Bedford Street, which was cut through to the north part of the farm in 1854.

According to Wheeler, in 1822 Josiah Meriam sold the property to **Charles Gordon**, who resold it to **William Pedrick** in 1855. Map evidence conflicts with this, however, as **Thomas Melvin** is shown here on the map of 1852, and is mentioned by Keyes, as well.

To further confuse matters, maps show that by 1871 #505 was owned by **William Mercer**. (Keyes refers to it as "the very old Mercer house", but mentions a successive owner who did not live in it--he may actually be referring to William Pedrick. Wheeler, however, says that Pedrick sold it to **Joseph W. Palmeter** in 1875, a name that is corroborated by the map evidence. Joseph Palmeter came to Concord from Nova Scotia. He died a few years after acquiring the farm, and his widow, Lavinia, continued to live in the house for many years. (Cont.)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

CONCORD

Samuel Fox House

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HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

Either Lavinia Palmeter or her heirs sold the property in 1909 to P. John Sexton, a "horse shoer" as well as a farmer, who continued to farm here until the late 1920's. It was then acquired by John Scimone and Angelo Inferrerra in partnership with two other owners. John sold most of his share of the farm in 1929 to his brother Francesco (Frank) Scimone, whose family still owns it today. The Scimone family was one of many families who immigrated from the region of Faro Superiore, Messina, in Italy to farms along Bedford Street and Old Bedford Road in the early part of this century. Francesco, who lived with John when he first came to America, had a large asparagus farm here. It still covered 159 acres in the 1920's, extending north to include today's Monsen Road area. Much of the farm was sold off through the middle of this century, however.

Francesco Scimone also re-acquired some former Fox family land. In 1935 he bought the parcel just east, where Dominic Curro had built the present cottage at #515 in 1930-31.

BIBLIOGRAPHY, Cont.

Wheeler, Ruth. "House File."

Richardson. Concord Chronicle.

Keyes/Tolman. "Houses in Concord". 1885.

Concord Vital Records.

Garrellick and Bailey. Concord in the Days of Strawberries and Streetcars.

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community Property Address
CONCORD 505 Old Bedford Road

Area(s)	Form No.
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National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form



Recommended:

☒ Individually ☐ District ☐ Contributing to a Potential Historic District

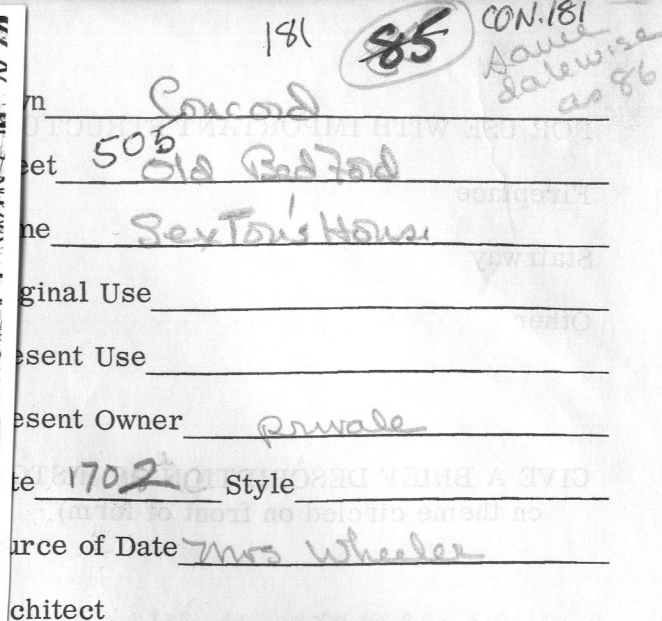
Criteria:

A	B	C	D
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Anne McCarthy Forbes

Statement of Significance by _____
The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

A rare survivor of First Period architecture, its main exterior alterations dating to the eighteenth century, the Samuel Fox House retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and association as a First Period/Georgian homestead of one of the Fox family, farmers for generations in Concord's east quarter, and thus meets Criteria A and C of the National Register.



IMPORTANCE of site to area: Great Little None SITE endangered by

H 3/4 A-4
Canning 4-4

FOR USE WITH IMPORTANT STRUCTURES (Indicate any interior features of note)

Fireplace

Stairway

Other

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF SITE (Refer and elaborate on theme circled on front of form)

Thomas + Sons - 1731
Xof 1845
Xof 1845
Xof 1845

DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low
WALL COVER: Wood
STORIES: 1 2 3 4
CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4
ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed Dependency
PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 Portico Balcony
RECESSED

REFERENCE (Where was this information obtained? What book, records, etc.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Original Owner:

Deed Information: Book Number Page Registry of Deeds

Original yellow form: Eligibility file
Copies: Inventory form
Town file(w/corresp.)
Macris
NR director _____

CON. 181

Community: CON

MHC OPINION: ELIGIBILITY FOR NATIONAL REGISTER

Date Received: 3/27/01

Date Due: 4/27/01

Date Reviewed: 4/4/01

Type: ☒ Individual ☒ District (s) (Attach map indicating boundaries)

Name: Multiple Areas (see below for list)

Inventory Form: See Below

Address: Old Bedford Rd / Bedford Street / Virginia Road

Requested by: TD

Action: ☐ Honor ☐ ITC ☐ Grant ☒ R & C ☐ Other:

Agency:

Staff in charge of Review: SW

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

☒ Eligible
☐ Eligible, also in district
☐ Eligible only in district
☐ Ineligible
☐ More information needed

DISTRICTS

☐ Eligible
☐ Ineligible
☒ More information needed

CRITERIA: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

LEVEL: ☒ Local ☒ State ☐ National

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

AREAS:

Old Bedford Road Area (CON.BM)
Old Bedford Road Area II (CON.BN)
Bedford Street Area II (CON.BO)
Lower Old Bedford – Virginia Roads Area (CON.BL)
William Tibbets – Thoreau Farm (CON.176)

INDIVIDUAL:

Enos Fox House (CON.182)
Samuel Fox House (CON.181)
Benoni & Thomas Fox House (CON.180)
Waldo Flint House (CON.179)

The entire area radiates from the intersection of Old Bedford Road and Bedford Street and part of Virginia Road (see map). The area is illustrative of the area's transition from an early agricultural to small farming area to an early 20th century streetcar suburb residential neighborhood. A majority of the land was once associated with the Fox family. The properties predominately read as historic structures in form though some have replacement windows or a form of synthetic siding.

The Old Bedford Road Area, the northernmost area, consists of three houses at 643, 654 and 667 Old Bedford Road all dating from the 1870's to the 1920's. Modern houses are located adjacent to these historic structures and to the north and south on Old Bedford Road. There is also a modern subdivision to the west (see map).

The Old Bedford Road Area II lies just to the south the Old Bedford Road Area. The area includes five properties 515,527,537,547,595 Old Bedford Road all located on the west side of the street, all constructed between 1870 and 1931. The historic properties are comprised of Greek Revivals and bungalows.

On the east side of Old Bedford Road at number 550 is the Enos Fox House. A Georgian farmhouse constructed in 1770 with a two story rear ell (may be a one story ell with an added second story dating to the early 20th century). The building is a five bay, two and a half story late Georgian structure with a central chimney, with a projecting central bay. The building is wood clapboard sided with 6 over 9 wood windows. The property is one of several in the area built by the Fox family, one of the earliest families in Concord. The house was used by subsequent families who farmed the area fields. Fun fact - during the Revolutionary War, when Harvard College was moved to Concord, a professor was housed here.

Just to the south of the Old Bedford Road Area II are several individually inventoried properties including:

- The Samuel Fox House at 505 Old Bedford Road: It is believed that the house may retain some heavy timber framing dating to 1702 but it predominately dates to the mid 18th century with a vernacular Georgian feel. The building has a salt box addition to the rear, is a five bay symmetrically arranged façade with a projecting one story central bay, and retains 6/6 wood sash and the majority of its architectural details. It has a clapboard façade with shingled sides. There was a former carriage house that was attached to the house, but destroyed in the 1938 hurricane. The site includes a 1930's garage, shed, greenhouse complex, and roadside stand.
- Benoni and Thomas Fox House at 474-472 Old Bedford Road, diagonally opposite the Samuel Fox House: The side of the house faces the street and there is a large condo addition added to the house. This structure began as a typical 18th century five bay 2 and a half story structure with a central chimney. The building is wood clapboard sided with late 19th century 2/2 wood sash with plain trim. The house at one time had a Victorian wrap around porch (as seen in earlier inventory form) that was removed and replaced with a central projecting bay in the 1990's.
- Waldo Flint House at 430 Old Bedford Road: Located at the corner of Bedford Street in a deep lot with mature trees with remnants of an orchard to the south. The c. 1890 2 and a half story dwelling with 2/2 wood windows is a vernacular Queen Anne style house with wood clapboard and shingles. A large clapboarded barn and carriage house sits adjacent to the house and is a very well preserved example in the town of Concord with a small cupola, central dormer with hay door, 6/6 wood sash, and vertical board central door.

Bedford Street II lies southwest of Old Bedford Road Area II after the intersection of Old Bedford Road and Bedford Street. The area consists of 9 properties on the north side of Bedford Street and one on the south side surrounded by modern residential properties. Mid 19th to early 20th century structures of various styles and several of the properties also have outbuildings.

The Lower Bedford – Virginia Road Area lies southeast of the intersection of Old Bedford Road and Bedford Street. The area consists of 7 residential properties dating from the late 19th to early 20th century. The southernmost portion of the area is within the Minuteman National Historic Park which includes the property at 55 Old Bedford Road (which is also in the American Mile LHD) and the agricultural land to the east of Old Bedford Road.

William Tibbets – Thoreau Farm, on the north side of Virginia Road, one of three inventoried sites outside the previous area is just west of the Deacon Wheeler- Thoreau Birthplace, which is individually eligible for listing in the National Register, and the Wheeler-Merriam House, which is individually listed in the National Register. Constructed c. 1878, the Greco-Italianate 2 and a half story three bay with a projecting wing house is sided in asbestos shingle. The associations with Thoreau extend only to the farm land associated with the site, the Thoreau farmhouse was demolished and this property built in the same location. The property was sold to the Wheeler family next door and farmed with the adjoining land.

DETERMINATION:

The Enos Fox House, Samuel Fox House and Waldo Flint House w/ barn and carriage house all retain integrity of setting, location, design, workmanship, feeling, association and materials and are eligible under Criteria A and C.

The Benino and Thomas Fox House is not eligible for listing because it lacks architectural integrity due to alterations over time, including a new side addition and removal of the Victorian porch.

More information is needed to determine eligibility for the areas in order to assess the number if intrusions (if any) between the houses in the areas and the areas themselves.